



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Shuler Statement on his Opposition to H.R. 3162

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler issued the following statement today after voting against final passage of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act.

"Today the House of Representatives considered a bill that posed a difficult proposition to me and many other members of Congress – expand health care to uninsured children through the State Children's Health Insurance Program at the expense of seniors on Medicare. Both SCHIP and Medicare are programs I fully support, and both are extremely effective programs that provide necessary health care to the neediest American citizens. Congress must be committed to preserving them both for future generations."

"This was a decision I thought and prayed on extensively. In the end, the cuts to Medicare – including billions of dollars of cuts to long-term care hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health care providers, and the providers of oxygen equipment and therapy – were too steep for me to support this bill."

"I strongly feel that these cuts are the result of a hurried legislative process that did not allow all members to fully review the bill or to offer amendments to strengthen the legislation. I fully support the underlying objectives of this bill – providing accessible insurance to more American children and protecting Medicare for American seniors – and I hope that the bill that is reported back to the House from the conference committee will achieve both of these goals in a fiscally responsible manner."

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